

Message Text

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42

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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P 101505Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6663

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1379

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, XF

SUBJECT: SYRIAN FONMINISTRY OFFICIAL DISCUSSES UNDOF RENEWAL

REF: DAMASCUS 1290

1. EXPANDING SOMEWHAT ON HIS COMMENTS TO UK AMBASSADOR ROBERTS ABOUT SYRIA'S MINIMAL POSITION FOR RENEWAL OF UNDOF (REFTEL), FONMINISTRY DIRECTOR OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS JOYAYJATI TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 10 THAT BE BELIEVED ANY SORT OF U.S. GESTURE TOWARD PLO WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR ASAD TO SAY PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE ON PARALLEL FRONTS, PALESTINIAN AND SYRIAN, AND JUSTIFY ANOTHER 6-MONTH EXTENSION OF UNDOF. EVEN THOUGH PRES. ASAD HAS MADE NO MENTION OF PLO IN HIS MARCH 8 SPEECH, AND EVEN THOUGH IT WAS BEING SAID IN SOME QUARTERS THAT ASAD WAS FORESAKING PLO FOR HIS NEW FRIEND KING HUSSEIN, JOUAYJATI SAID HE COULD ASSURE U.S. THAT SIMULTANEOUS PROGRESS ON SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN FRONTS WAS STILL SYRIAN REQUIREMENT FOR FURTHER STEPS IN PEACE PROCESS. PERHAPS, HE ADDED, HUSSEIN WOULD BE ABLE TO CONVINCE U.S. LEADERSHIP THAT PROGRESS ON THIS BASIS COULD BE IN INTEREST OF ALL PARTIES.

2. SPECULATING ON WHAT SYRIA MIGHT DO IF BY MID-MAY NO MOVEMENT HAD OCCURRED, JOUAYJATI VOICED POSSIBILITY OF NEW UNSC DEBATE ON ME IN LATTER HALF OF MAY WITH
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"UNITING FOR PEACE" PROCEDURE BROUGHT INTO PLAY

IF NO CONSENSUS ON SC RESOLUTION OBTAINED. THIS WOULD
PERMIT SYRIA TO RENEW "SINCE UN DEBATE ON MATTER WAS
IN PROCESS," HE SAID.

3. SUGGEST DEPT PASS AMMAN AND CAIRO.
MURPHY

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NNN

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